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P 250722Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3299
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 0153
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY 0112
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0225
RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO PRIORITY 0001
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 2088
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 0081
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 0203
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY 0096
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0227
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY 0001
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0286
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 1062
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0255
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0463
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY 0082
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0268
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY 0056
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY 0112
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY 0237
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 0361
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0329
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 0284
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 1905
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0668
RUEHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY 0128
RUEHPL/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY 0058
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0417
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1839
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 0024
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0001
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1421
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY 0221
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0390
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 5043
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 2939
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0735
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY 0069
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY 0196
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB PRIORITY 0217
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0834
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4595
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1444
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0068

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 THE HAGUE 000582

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/23/2019

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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/HRC: SUPPORTING U.S. ON GOLDSTONE
REPORT

REF: SECSTATE 98567

Classified By: ...

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Classified By: POLECON Counselor Andrew C. Mann for reasons 1.5 (b,d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: The Dutch MFA supports the U.S. position on the Goldstone report, but some members in the Dutch Parliament will try to pressure FM Verhagen to take a more skeptical approach toward Israel. The MFA intimated there is a split on Israel policy between FM Verhagen and Development Minister Koenders. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) Post delivered reftel points to key MFA contacts, and the Polecon Counselor and Pol Deputy met September 24 with Mr. Henne Schuwer, newly arrived Director of the North Africa and Middle East Department. Schuwer stated we're in the same place. The Dutch want to maintain the Human Rights Council (HRC) focus on the report, rather than referring it to New York. We should let the parties comment on the report, said Schuwer, we don't need to rush. Schuwer further agreed that the mandate of the report was flawed, and that the report is too focused on Israel. Nonetheless, it was clever to pick Goldstone, given his stature. Because it's a serious report, we will need to respond. The Dutch had encouraged the Israelis to participate in the process with the aim of producing a better final product. The Dutch will encourage the EU to keep debate on the report at the HRC, but Schuwer did not anticipate the EU could reach consensus on this.

13. (C) When the Goldstone report was first released, FM Verhagen publicly stated that it was one-sided, with too much focus on Israel. Schuwer noted the FM may have spoken a bit Qfocus on Israel. Schuwer noted the FM may have spoken a bit soon, and Verhagen sent a letter to Parliament on September 21 that it was too soon to offer an assessment. Responding to subsequent criticism from Parliament, Verhagen agreed to submit the MFA's position to Parliament on September 28. Parliament will then debate the issue the next day. Schuwer acknowledged that we won't be able to hide the split on Israel policy. (Note/Comment: Verhagen and his party, the Christian Democrats (CDA), have traditionally defended Israel. Minister for Development Cooperation Koenders and his Labor Party are more skeptical of Israel's commitment to human rights. In sharp debates over Israel's human rights policies, the CDA is challenged by Labor and other parties on

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the left. Post does not expect next week's debate to change the Dutch approach in the HRC as described by Schuwer in paragraph 2. End Note/Comment.)
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